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25X1X 1. On 16 September 1950, 56 prisoners, including 29 children, were released by the Viet Minh. Of these, four were French, and the remainder metis and Vietnamese. Although the prisoners believe they received the same treatment as the Viet Minh population, they received adequate food only during the first two years of their imprisonment. Several times they were moved to different places in the Haite Region, but most of the time they lived among the hill tribes. The tribes people, Thos and Mans, were rarely disturbed by the Viet Minh, and paid little attention to the Viet Minh guards in charge of the prisoners. The refugees were given little opportunity to take note of happenings in Viet Minh zones outside of their immediate vicinity. However, the general feeling among the refugees is one of sympathy for the Viet Minh, perhaps the result of subtle indoctrination. Most of them resent the French, feeling that French officials made insufficient efforts to obtain their release from Viet Minh territory, and regard the visit of Leo Figueres to Hoi Nam as responsible for their freedom.

2. All of the refugees contracted malaria during their imprisonment, but in spite of a shortage of medicines after the first two years, they are in surprisingly good health. Their bitterness towards the French has increased considerably since their return, because practically no effort has been made to house them, and they are living in poor and crowded quarters.

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3. On 24 September 1950, an additional 59 Viet Minh prisoners were released near the edge of the French controlled zone. Most of these prisoners indicated their intention of rejoining Viet Minh fighting forces. Several of the women prisoners were couriers. One woman, who described herself as an inquiry agent, planned to take up her old job with the Viet Minh, which paid her 300 Indochinese piasters a month.\* That little propaganda and indoctrination the French have directed toward these prisoners seems to have had little effect.

25X1A \* [REDACTED] Comment: This is questionable; and the sum was probably 300 Ho Chi Tinh piasters a month.

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